

News Release

For immediate release
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Attn: Local news, health, weather and assignment editors

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Air Alert update

Businesses, residents tackle ozone

Emission-reductions efforts keep ozone under threshold during first two days of alert

Conditions are ideal for elevated ozone levels, and Valley air officials said Thursday that business and resident efforts to ward off a 1-hour ozone exceedance have kept levels below a critical threshold so far this week.

“Temperatures remain high and there is very little atmospheric dispersion, which are ideal conditions for ozone formation,” said Stephen Shaw, the Air District’s supervising air quality analyst. “The importance of everyone in the Valley reducing their emissions can’t be overstated.”

The Valley’s first Air Alert was declared Tuesday, Aug. 23 and is in effect through Sunday, Aug. 28. Air Alerts are declared Valley-wide and include the counties of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and portions of Kern.

Air Alert episodes are called when conditions may lead to ozone (smog) formation that results in exceeding health-based ozone standards of 125 parts per billion (ppb) and triggering substantial federal monetary penalties.

Some Valley businesses and industry have modified their operations to reduce their emissions. For example, a recycling company planned to switch their operating hours Thursday to begin at midnight and continue intermittently through early morning, the hours when ozone levels are at their lowest.

The air basin’s highest ozone readings so far this week (all data are preliminary):

Monday (8-22)	Tuesday (8-23)	Wednesday (8-24)
Ash Mountain (Tulare County) 97ppb Parlier (Fresno County) 91 ppb Arvin (Kern County) 90 ppb.	Parlier 108 ppb Central Fresno 107 ppb Edison (Kern County) 103 ppb	Edison 116 ppb Arvin 110 ppb Ash Mountain 103 ppb

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About 80 percent of the Valley's ozone-forming emissions are produced by vehicle use. Residents can reduce smog-forming emissions by refraining from idling when dropping off or picking up students, carpooling or vanpooling, and refraining from using drive-through services.

Businesses and municipalities can reduce emissions by shifting operations to early morning or late evening, as in lawn care; offering flexible work schedules, and encouraging carpools and vanpools for employees. Businesses can also enroll at no cost in the Healthy Air Living Partner program.

For more information about Air Alerts, please visit
http://www.valleyair.org/AirAlert/AirAlert_Landing.htm.

To sign up for a free subscription to the Air Alert email notification system please visit
<http://www.valleyair.org/lists/list.htm>.

To receive information about becoming a Healthy Air Living Partner, please visit
www.healthyairliving.com.